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Statement submitted by The Entrepreneurship Development Foundation for Women and Youth, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

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Statement

Rethinking and strengthening social development in the contemporary world: the important role of civil society and non-governmental organisations in women's empowerment

Having seen the achievements of the developed countries nowadays and their success in building international relationships, strengthening social developments has become the main goal of developing countries. But a developed society is for sure achieved only by participation of most of the population including both genders (men and women) to play their role in the society.

The number of women active and present especially in managerial positions in a country is one of the factors of rating how developed a country is.

To have this active participation, a society needs a lot of preparation, culturally and structurally so the society is ready to accept the women as involved as the men throughout the process of development.

The focus on two groups of women should be highlighted throughout the way:

- University graduated women which are part of a country's asset
- Serious investment on deprived areas to arrange educational courses especially for young women who will soon have to find their role in family and society.

Here is where the important role of non-governmental organisations even becomes more clear and necessary not only to facilitate the progress of preparation and participation but also to maintain the ongoing development and stability in it throughout the way.

Therefore, The Entrepreneurship Development Foundation for Women and Youth has decided to focus on this subject as the main theme aligned with the priority theme of this year in 60th Session of the Commission for Social Development at United Nations (2016).

Established in 2005, The Entrepreneurship Development Foundation for Women and Youth is a non-governmental, non-profit organization with the goal of promoting private sector market-oriented business activities for women and youth with a special emphasis on innovative entrepreneurship. The Foundation's five major areas of action are:

- Identifying entrepreneurial and local business opportunities
- Supporting start-up youth and young entrepreneurs
- Identifying young talent and development of teens through Entrepreneurship Room in Schools program
- Capacity-building of entrepreneurs and business owners and documenting their professional experiences
- Promoting social entrepreneurship and capacity building of Non-Governmental Organizations.

We, in the Entrepreneurship Development Foundation for Women and Youth have implemented such projects in underserved and marginal areas with the purpose of promoting women participation in economic and social spheres.

During the past decade the Entrepreneurship Development Foundation for Women and Youth successfully achieved national and productive models in the areas of women and economy, women and poverty as well as women empowerment.

These projects have the potential for scaling up and further evolving and expanding to other developing communities. Promoting creative entrepreneurship and other private market-oriented income-generating business and self-employment opportunities for women and youth not only increases their role in economic, social and cultural spheres but also strengthens their intellectual independence.

To summarize the above here is our organization's guideline to be considered for achieving a sustainable development through women's empowerment:

- Promote women entrepreneurship and other private market-oriented income-generating business and self-employment opportunities for women through strengthening the main infrastructures such as education, consultation, financial resources, regulations and access to information.
- Empower women especially those who living in marginal areas especially the female-headed households through home-based businesses and supporting them with needed resources in order to enter the job market.
- Make a connection between networks of local Non-Governmental Organizations nationwide and support their international communication in order to strengthen the quantity and quality of female presence in the economic, social and cultural field. In this case, it is better to be led by a head organization (officially or non-officially).
- Establish more action programs to encourage women's presence up to higher levels in decision-making positions.
- Provide educational programs for those women who cannot afford it or should deal with so many challenges and barriers in order to continue their educations. Surely this event will help to establish the basic culture.
- Promote women the confidence to believe themselves in order to be a part of a society, and how to treat their children more confident. "